

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) A non-aqueous electrolytic solution comprising a non-aqueous solvent and an electrolyte, which further contains a dinitrile compound in an amount of 0.001 to 10 wt. %.
16. (Original) The electrolytic solution of claim 15, wherein the dinitrile compound is succinonitrile, glutaronitrile, adiponitrile, 1,5-dicyanopentane, 1,6-dicyanohexane, 1,7-dicyanoheptane, 1,8-dicyanooctane, 1,9-dicyanononane, 1,10-dicyanodecane, 1,12-dicyanododecane, tetramethylsuccinonitrile, 2-methylglutaronitrile, 2,4-dimethylglutaronitrile, 2,2,4,4-tetramethylglutaronitrile, 1,4-dicyanopentane, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-hexanedicarbonitrile, 2,6-dicyanoheptane, 2,7-dicyanooctane, 2,8-dicyanononane, 1,6-dicyanodecane, 1,2-dicyanobenzene, 1,3-dicyanobenzene, or 1,4-dicyanobenzene.
17. (Original) The electrolytic solution of claim 15, wherein the non-aqueous solvent comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a cyclic carbonate, a cyclic ester, a linear carbonate, and an ether.
18. (Original) The electrolytic solution of claim 15, wherein the non-aqueous solvent comprises a cyclic carbonate and a linear carbonate in a volume ratio of 1:9 to 9:1.
19. (Original) The electrolytic solution of claim 15, wherein the non-aqueous solvent comprises a cyclic carbonate and an ether in a volume ratio of 1:9 to 9:1.
20. (Original) The electrolytic solution of claim 15, wherein the non-aqueous solvent comprises a cyclic carbonate and a cyclic ester in a volume ratio of 1:99 to 99:1.
21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A lithium battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode comprising a carbonaceous material of a graphite crystal structure having a lattice distance of lattice surface (002) of 0.34 nanometer or less and a non-aqueous electrolytic solution of claim [[14]] 15.